

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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STATE PASS NASA FOR P. THIBIDEAU

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: TGEN, TSPA, UR, US

SUBJECT: SPACE AGREEMENT: SPACE BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE (04.05):

TELEX SYSTEM BETWEEN NASA AND GAZENKO

REF: MOSCOW 6676

1. SCI OFFICE HAS DISCUSSED WITH INTERCOSMOS THE QUESTION OF THE USE OF DIRECT TELEX COMMUNICATION BETWEEN NASA AND PROFESSOR OLEG G. GAZENKO, INSTITUTE OF BIOMEDICAL PROBLEMS, INTERCOSMOS. PROFESSOR GAZENKO INITIATED THE USE OF TELEX COMMUNICATIONS WITH NASA ON JUNE 24, 1976.

2. MR PRISEVOK, SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY OF INTERCOSMOS, HAS TALKED WITH GAZENKO'S OFFICE AND OBTAINED THEIR AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE HIM WITH TWO COPIES OF ALL INCOMING AND OUTGOING TELEX MESSAGE EXCHANGES WITH NASA. THE SECOND COPY WILL BE FOR THIS EMBASSY. TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN ONE EXCHANGE OF TELEX MESSAGE AND THE EMBASSY WAS PROVIDED COPIES.

3. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE NASA-GAZENKO TELEX BE USED SPARINGLY AND THAT THE MAJORITY OF COMMUNICATIONS RELATED TO THE SPACE AGREEMENT CONTINUE TO BE SENT VIA STATE DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM.

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4. DIRECT TELEX LINKS ARE USEFUL FOR SUCH THINGS AS INQUIRIES ON MAILINGS AND RECEIPTS, AND PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC DATA BUT NOT FOR THE DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS, POLICY ISSUES, ITINERARIES OR DELEGATION COMPOSITION AND PLANNING, BECAUSE:

A. TELEXES LIMIT THE RAPID DISTRIBUTION OF THE INFORMATION WHICH IN TURN MAKES IT DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE EMBASSY TO FOLLOW UP:

B. TELEX LACKS CONFIDENTIALITY AND MESSAGES SOMETIMES FAIL TO REACH THE ADDRESSEE. AS RESULT SIGNAL ERROR, TELEXES HAVE IN THE PAST ENDED UP ON THE TELEX OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESS.

C. TELEX TRANSMISSIONS ARE NOT RELIABLE AS OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.

D. CORRESPONDENCE CARRIED ON BY TELEX IS DIFFICULT TO KEEP TRACK OF AND FILE, AND ELIMINATES THE USE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT COMPUTER RETRIEVAL SYSTEM.

E. TELEXES ARE COSTLY: THEY DUPLICATE EXISTING GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION FACILITIES.

5. AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE DIRECT TELEX MESSAGE TO GAZENKO, NASA MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MEANS OF COMMUNICATION WHICH WOULD HELP RESOLVE SEVERAL OF THE PROBLEMS MENTIONED ABOVE.

6. WHEN NASA FINDS IT USEFUL TO COMMUNICATE WITH GAZENKO WITHOUT USING THE STATE DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM, NASA COULD TYPE ITS MESSAGE AS A TELEGRAM USING NASA OR STANDARD MILITARY FORMAT AND ADDRESS IT TO GAZENKO, CARE OF THE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW. THE COAST GUARD COULD THEN TRANSMIT THIS TELEGRAM DIRECTLY TO THE EMBASSY VIA GOVERNMENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS (ROUTE RUEHMO). THE EMBASSY WOULD RECEIVE THE MESSAGE ON A TAPE WHICH CAN BE IMMEDIATELY RETRANSMITTED VIA TELEX TO GAZENKO. GAZENKO WOULD RECEIVE THE MESSAGE AS THOUGH IT HAD BEEN SENT DIRECTLY TO HIM BY TELEX.

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7. UNFORTUNATELY, THE REVERSE ROUTE CANNOT EASILY BE USED TO SEND GAZENKO TELEX MESSAGES TO NASA. IF GAZENKO WERE TO SEND A TELEX TO NASA VIA THE EMBASSY, HIS MESSAGE WOULD BE RECEIVED AT THE EMBASSY IN A FORMAT WHICH CANNOT BE RETRANSMITTED VIA GOVERNMENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS. WE WOULD BE GLAD TO RETYPE GAZENKO TELEXES ONTO STATE DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM FROM BUT THE EXCHANGE WOULD BE DELAYED.

8. GAZENKO WILL HAVE TO TELEX DIRECTLY TO NASA AND THE EM-BASSY AND PRISEVOK WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO RELY ON GAZENKO FOR COPIES OF HIS OUTGOING MESSAGES.

9. WHATEVER SYSTEM OF DIRECT OR SEMI-DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS IS AGREED TO WITH GAZENKO, A MESSAGE NUMBERING SYSTEM SHOULD BE INSTITUTED FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES. THIS HAS PROVEN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THE MOH-HEW TELEX LINK UNDER THE US-USSR AGREEMENT ON HEALTH. A CONSECUTIVE NUMBERING SYSTEM COMBINED WITH THE EMBASSY'S NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR THE AGREEMENT MIGHT BE SUFFICIENT.

10. IN SUMMARY, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS: (A) THAT NASA LIMIT ITS USE OF ANY NON-STATE DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATIONS LINK; (B) THAT NASA CONSIDER USING THE COAST-GUARD - GOVERNMENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL-EMBASSY-GAZENKO ROUTE RATHER THAN TELEXING GAZENKO ON COMMERCIAL LINES; (C) THAT A CONSECUTIVE NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR ALL NASA-GAZENKO MESSAGES BEGIN IMMEDIATELY; AND (D) THAT NASA PROVIDE EUR/SOV/EXCHANGES WITH COPIES OF ALL "DIRECT" NASA-GAZENKO MESSAGES.

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